



# South Region Hikes and Happenings Winter 2009-2010

- Blue Hills Reservation
- Blue Hills Trailside Museum
- Brook Farm Historic Site
- Chestnut Hill Reservation
- Cutler Park Reservation
- Elm Bank Reservation
- Hammond Pond Reservation
- Hancock Woods Reservation
- Hemlock Gorge Reservation
- Upper Neponset River Greenway
- Lost Pond Reservation
- Quincy Quarries Historic Site
- Stony Brook Reservation
- Upper Charles River Reservation
- Wilson Mountain Reservation

## Sunday, December 6

### Holiday Toy Drive & Mountain Bike Ride or Hike

Toy Drop & refreshments	10 am – 1 pm
Mountain Bike Ride	10 am
Houghton's Pond Hike	1 pm

*Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.*

Join the DCR Park Rangers and volunteers from Blue Hills TrailWatch and New England Mountain Bike Association for our annual holiday toy drive collection. Bring a new unwrapped toy, then go on a guided or self-guided ride or hike. All toys will be donated to Interfaith Social Services which help deserving families during the holidays. Gifts for children ages 11-16 are most needed and appreciated. Call 617-698-1802 x212 for more information.

## Saturday, December 19 & Sunday December 20 2 pm - 4 pm

### Rangers in the Rink

Meet a Park Ranger at the rink and learn about the exciting Park Passport program and free winter fun offerings from DCR. Call 617-698-1802 for directions.

Ulin Rink in Milton	Saturday
Bajko Rink in Hyde Park	Sunday

## Friday, January 1

### First Day Hikes 2010

Free hot & hearty soup at noon. All hikes begin at 1:00 pm

*Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.*

Celebrate the New Year in the Blue Hills. This is year nineteenth of our annual New Year's tradition! Join the fun. Warm up with a free cup of hearty soup, then stretch your legs on a variety of guided hikes suitable for all ages and abilities. A great way to jump start the year! For more information, call 617-698-1802.

## Winter Trail Work Days

*Call 617-6981-802 x219 to register and get directions*

Winter is a great time for trimming back trails and cleaning culverts. Lend a hand in the woods. Please bring gloves, water and dress in layers.

Stony Brook, Hyde Park	January 18
Wilson Mountain, Dedham	January 30
Blue Hills, Milton	February 6 & 20

## Saturday, January 9

9 am- 2 pm

### Winter Trails Day

*Meet at Leo J. Martin Golf Course at 200 Park Road in Weston. Call 781-891-6575 for more info.*

New to snow sports? Try snowshoeing and cross country skiing at Weston Ski Track and discover the great fitness and social benefits with these easy-to-learn winter sports. Celebrate Winter Trails Day at the DCR Leo J. Martin Golf Course. Free demos, additional rentals for a fee. Visit [www.skiboston.com](http://www.skiboston.com) or call the number above for more information. See you on the trails!

**Saturday, January 16** 1 pm

### **Evergreens of Winter**

*Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.*

Venture with us on a leisurely walk through stands of pine and hemlock, as we look at the hardy trees, shrubs and ground covers that stay green throughout the winter. 1.5 hours

**Sunday, January 24** 1 pm

### **Bigfoot Stomp: A Snowshoe Hike**

*Call 617-698-1802 x212 for registration and meeting place.*

Did you just get a new pair of snowshoes or looking to get a set? Join a DCR Ranger and an REI Outdoor School Instructor for a guided romp through the Blue Hills. We'll provide the tips and tricks to getting around in the deep stuff. REI will also have a limited number of adult size snowshoes to loan. No experience is necessary! 1.5 hours

**Saturday, January 30** 1 pm

### **St. Moritz Winter Wonderland**

*Meet at the Shea Rink parking lot at 651 Willard Street in Quincy.*

The St. Moritz area of Quincy was once the home of a huge winter carnival. Join us as we discover the interesting history of this winter wonderland on this easy hike. 1.5 hours.

**Sunday, February 7** 1 pm

### **Elm Bank Ski or Hike**

*Call 617-333-7404, x101 for registration and meeting place.*

Join a DCR Ranger on an easy Nordic adventure along the beautiful Charles River. Glide across the open fields and stride beside the river on a level wooded trail. If no snow, we will hike. Must provide own cross-country skis and equipment. Experience is required. 1.5 hours

**Saturday, February 13** 1 pm

### **Winter Wildlife Safari**

*Call 617-698-1802 x213 for registration and meeting place.*

Put on your detective hat as we search for clues of animal activity. Where do animals go in winter? Unlock the mysteries of wildlife in winter on this seasonal outdoor safari. 1.5 hours

**Sunday, February 21** 2 pm - 4 pm

### **Frozen Fun at Reilly Memorial Skating Rink Chestnut Hill Reservation**

*Meet at the Reilly Memorial Skating Rink at Cleveland Circle in Brighton*

Join the DCR rangers at Chestnut Hill Reservation for some winter fun. Enjoy some frozen fun on the ice at Reilly Rink or take an outdoor stroll with a ranger to look for signs of winter wildlife.

**Free ranger-led Family winter hike from 2:30 pm- 3:15 pm**

**Free Public Ice Skating 2:00 pm -3:50 pm**

Skate rentals available for a fee

**DCR Park Passport Discovery from 2 pm – 4 pm**

Call 617-333-7404 x 101 for more information.

**Saturday, February 27** 9 am

### **Mile-A-Minute: Invasion of the Aliens**

*Call 617- 698-1802 x 219 to register and for meeting place.*

What lives in the Blue Hills, grows 6 inches a day and is destroying the habitat of our native species? Join DCR Forestry Assistant Alexandra Echandi in an indoor discussion of Mile-a-Minute, an invasive weed recently identified in the Blue Hills. Learn how to identify, report and help control the spread of this and other invasive plants. 1.5 hours.

**Sunday, February 28** 9 am

### **Canines & Coffee**

*Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.*

Team up with your favorite pooch and a cup of joe on this early morning ranger – led stroll around Houghton's Pond. Coffee provided. Dogs must be leashed. 1.5 hours

**All programs are free!**

# Blue Hills Adult Walking Club

## Winter 2009- 2010

Blue Hills Reservation & South Region Sites

### Welcome

The Blue Hills Adult Walking Club is a group of adults that meets on a weekly basis for recreational walks. The purpose of these walks is social exercise. There is no fee to join and everyone 16 or older is welcome. Walks are normally 2 to 5 miles.

The terrain can vary:

- ▲ EASY (mostly level terrain)
- ▲▲ MODERATE (hilly terrain)
- ▲▲▲ DIFFICULT (strenuous & steep)

Walks will be lead by a park ranger or a Walking Club volunteer leader. Occasionally, the Walking Club meets at other DCR sites or car pools to sites within the Blue Hills Reservation. The rangers recommend wearing hiking boots and bringing drinking water on all hikes.

Enjoy the programs and keep walking!

## December

### Sunday, December 6

#### Holiday Toy Drive & Hike

10 am – 1 pm Toy Drop

1 pm Easy Woodland Walk

Join Santa and friends for refreshments in the Houghton's Pond Visitor Center beginning at 10:00 am. Join an easy stroll at 1 pm. Please bring a new unwrapped children's gift as a contribution to Interfaith Social Services which helps families in need during the holidays. Gifts for children ages 11 – 16 are most needed and appreciated.

#### ▲ Easy walk, 2 miles 1 pm

Loop around Houghton's Pond and old Rte. 128

Meet at Houghton's Pond Visitor Center at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.

### Saturday, December 12

Blue Hills Walking Club Holiday Gathering

#### Open House from 1 – 3 pm

*Meet at Brookwood Farm Conference Center at 11 Blue Hill River Road in Canton.*

Join us as we celebrate the holiday season at scenic Brookwood Farm. Hot beverages will be provided.

Please bring a holiday treat to share. Stroll through the fields and woodlands with friends or share some holiday cheer by the warmth of the fire.

### Sunday, December 20

1 pm



Moderate walk, some hill, 3 + miles. Walk through Stony Brook Reservation in Hyde Park. Meet at the Bajko Rink parking lot at 75 Turtle Pond Parkway in Hyde Park.

## January

### Friday, January 1

#### First Day Hikes 2010

**Free hot & hearty soup at noon. All hikes begin at 1:00 pm**

*Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.*

Celebrate the New Year in the Blue Hills. This is year nineteenth of our annual New Year's tradition! Join the fun. Warm up with a free cup of hearty soup, then stretch your legs on a variety of guided hikes suitable for all ages and abilities.

A great way to jump start the year! For more information, call 617-698-1802.

**Sunday, January 10 1 pm**



Easy/moderate walk, 3 miles. A figure eight around Houghton's Pond and Tucker Hill. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.

**Sunday, January 17 1 pm**



Moderate walk, hilly terrain, 3 miles. Headquarters Path to Doe Hollow Path and return via Bugbee Path. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.

**Saturday, January 23 1 pm**



Moderate walk, some hills, 4 miles. Old Rte. 128 to Beech Hollow and Doe Hollow. Return via the green dot trail. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot on 840 Hillside Street in Milton.

**Sunday, January 31 1 pm**



Moderate walk, hilly terrain, 3.5 miles. Walk the St. Moritz green dot loop. Meet at the Shea Rink parking lot at 651 Willard Street in Quincy.

## February

**Saturday, February 6 1 pm**



Moderate walk, 3 miles. Sawcut Notch path to Indian Camp Path and return via Old Furnace Brook Path. Meet at Shea Rink parking lot at 351 Willard Street in Quincy.

**Sunday, February 14 1 pm**



Moderate walk, some hilly terrain, 4 miles. Loop around Ponkapoag Pond. Meet at the Ponkapoag Golf Course parking lot at 2173 Washington Street in Canton.

**Saturday, February 20 1 pm**



Moderate walk, hilly terrain, 3.5 miles. Walk the green dot loop in the Great Blue Hill section via Wolcott Path. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.

**Saturday, February 27 1 pm**



Moderate walk, rolling terrain, 2+ miles. Loop through Little Blue Hill section. Meet at Little Blue Hill Park and Ride lot on Route 138 in Canton.

## Things to know before you go

- Wear sturdy footgear
- Carry drinking water
- Dress in layers for maximum comfort
- We will hike unless the weather is severe
- If weather conditions are questionable, please call the reservation headquarters at 617.698.1802